



Smoke-Free Air Act Fact Sheet for Smoke-Free Workplaces

The Smoke-Free Air Act will go into effect April 15, 2006. This Act protects New Jersey residents at work and in public from deadly secondhand smoke. The Act states that *tobacco smoke constitutes a substantial health hazard*, and therefore, *it is clearly in the public interest to prohibit smoking in enclosed indoor places*.

- The Smoke-Free Air Act (P.L. 2005, c.383) prohibits smoking in indoor public places and workplaces to protect employees and the public from secondhand smoke.
- Secondhand smoke is a serious health concern for everyone. Secondhand smoke is a dangerous combination of the smoke from the burning end of a cigarette, pipe or cigar and the smoke exhaled by a smoker. This mixture contains more than 4,000 substances, including 200 known poisons and 69 known and probable cancer-causing substances. Secondhand smoke has been classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a cause of cancer in humans (Group A carcinogen). Secondhand smoke is sometimes referred to as environmental tobacco smoke or ETS.
- The types of businesses to which the smoke-free law applies include any enclosed location at which a person performs a service or labor; bars; restaurants; public transportation including all ticketing, boarding platforms and waiting areas, trains, buses, vans, taxicabs and limousines; all public and nonpublic elementary and secondary school buildings, and all school grounds; child care centers; health care facilities, patient waiting rooms and nursing homes; sports facilities including race tracks and bowling alleys; theaters, clubs, concert halls, public libraries, museums and art galleries; shopping malls and retail stores; parking facilities, lobbies, elevators, and lodging establishments including hotels and motels; and bingo facilities.
- Smoking is allowed in the following areas or businesses: private homes, private residences, and private automobiles; hotels, motels or other lodging establishments may permit smoking in up to 20% of guest rooms; within the perimeters of casino gaming areas, and casino simulcasting facilities; cigar bars or lounges that in calendar year ending December 31, 2004, generated 15% or more of total annual gross income is from the sale of tobacco products; and tobacco retail establishments whose primary activity (51%) is the retail sale of tobacco products and accessories and the sale of other products is incidental.
- For more information about the Smoke-Free Air Act visit www.smokefree.nj.gov.
- If you smoke and want to quit, or you want to support your employees, clients or patrons who want to quit, call NJ Quitline at 1-866-NJ-STOPS (1-866-657-8677) or visit NJ QuitNet® at www.nj.quitnet.com. Both services provide free and personal professional counseling and support. Or visit www.njquit2win.com for free materials that you can use to create a "quit smoking program" in work or meeting places.



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